

Sl.No.	SSA	DISTRICT	Villages in habited	Area	Balance Village
28.	Shahdol	Shahdol	1977	BTNL	1125
29.	Surguja	Sarguja	2414	BTNL	1850
		Total	40884	0	16105
1.	Baster	Baster	3670	DOT/DTS	2129
2.	Indore	Indore	624	DOT/DTS	0
3.	Khargone	Khargone	1884	DOT/DTS	120
4.	Mandsour	Mandsour	1575	DOT/DTS	0
5.	Khandwe	Khandwa	1060	DOT/DTS	0
6.	Balaghat	Balaghat	1269	DOT/DTS	151
7.	Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur	1040	DOT/DTS	37
8.	Saoni	Seoni	1585	DOT/DTS	397
9.	Chhindwara	Chhindwara	1903	DOT/DTS	137
10.	Betul	Betul	1328	DOT/DTS	0
11.	Shajapur	Shajapur	1068	DOT/DTS	0
12.	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	3501	DOT/DTS	1117
13.	Durg	Durg	1803	DOT/DTS	738
14.		Rajnandgaon	2273	DOT/DTS	1601
15.	Rajgarh	Rajgarh	2198	DOT/DTS	834
16.	Rajpur	Rajpur	3863	DOT/DTS	1743
		TOTAL	30642	0	9004

Telephone in rural areas of NER

1749. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to provide telephone connections in the rural areas of NER; and

(b) the time by which the telephone connections facilities are likely to be granted to all the villages and village Panchayats in NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Telephone connections are being provided at the places wherever demand is existing, from the nearest

telephone exchanges through underground cable, overhead lines. A new exchange is planned to install when there is a registered demand of 10 or more and the demand cannot be met from an existing exchange within the Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA).

(b) All the villages and village panchayats are planned to be provided with the telecom facilities by March, 2002.

Setting up of National Commission for Telecommunications

1750. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a National Commission for Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to modernise and for expansion of the telecommunication network both in urban as well as rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, a Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister with one of the mandates to prepare the draft of new legislation to replace Indian Telegraph Act, 1885; keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The Group is examining all these aspects. The Group has not yet submitted its report.

(c) Following steps are being taken to modernise and for expansion of telecom network;

- (i) Replacing Technologically obsolete switches with digital switches and introducing Modern Technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in Telecom Network.
- (ii) New Technologies like WLL, C-DOT, TDMA/PMP and Satellite based telephones for rural Telecom Network are being inducted.
- (iii) Setting up of Internet nodes at SSA level and making available sufficient band with for the spread of Internet.
- (iv) Provision of telephone on demand with the involvement of private service providers in Telecom Network.